

RESOLUTION 5-2-09

Resolution Opposing Proposed Changes to Wisconsin's Prevailing Wage Law

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed biennial state budget, Assembly Bill 75, proposes to make the prevailing wage law applicable to any public works contract over \$2,000; and

WHEREAS, under current law the prevailing wage requirements only apply to multiple-trade public works projects over \$234,000 and single-trade public works projects over \$48,000; and

WHEREAS, reducing the threshold to \$2,000 will increase the cost of small public works projects previously exempted from the prevailing wage requirement in many communities; and

WHEREAS, the cost increase to pay prevailing wages on all public works projects over \$2,000 will force counties and other local governments to reduce the number and/or size of public works projects or raise taxes to meet the increased costs, which would further burden property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget also for the first time proposes to make the prevailing wage law applicable to private projects that receive public financing; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to pay prevailing wages on all public works projects over \$2,000 will take away the competitive advantage that many smaller local contractors have on smaller public works projects over larger contractors from outside a local community, thus hurting the local economy in these communities while still increasing the costs of these projects; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these proposed changes to the prevailing wage law would add additional cost of Green County's projects over the next two years at a time when Green County is operating under numerous financial constraints including levy limits and tax rate limits; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to the prevailing wage law in the budget are non-fiscal policy items that should be addressed as separate legislation so that lawmakers can give more thoughtful consideration to changing the cost threshold for public works projects and clarifying statutory language to distinguish between routine maintenance and construction projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Green County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, that the Board approve the recommendation of the Finance and Accounting Committee opposing the changes to the prevailing wage law proposed in AB 75, and urges the Legislature and the Governor to remove these items from the budget bill.

SIGNED: THE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE:

Harvey Mandel, Chair

Sue Disch, Vice-Chair

Arthur Carter

Al Benzschawel

Dennis Everson

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Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact. MJD

Legal Note: Approved as to form. BDB

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
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COUNTY OF GREEN)

I, Michael J. Doyle, County Clerk in and for said County, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 5-2-09, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 12, 2009.

Dated at Monroe, Wisconsin, this 12th day of May, 2009.

Michael J. Doyle
Green County Clerk